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Reserve

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

:: :: MONTANA :: ::



F-26241A

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
NORTHERN REGION

MF-21, R1

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1939

CORRECTION

This map represents the area embraced in the former Lewis & Clark National Forest. Since the map was printed a somewhat larger area, formerly comprising the Jefferson National Forest, has been consolidated with this unit to form the present Lewis & Clark Forest, all under the direction of one Forest Supervisor whose headquarters office is at Great Falls, Montana.

Such combinations of administrative units are made in order to reduce overhead expense. They have become possible in several cases due to recent road development work and other improvements in communication and transportation facilities, which have made it possible for a Supervisor to maintain control over a larger area than formerly.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE REGION

In 1805 the Lewis and Clark expedition passed up the Missouri River on its epoch-making journey to the North Pacific Coast. The following year on the return trip the party divided at the mouth of the Bitterroot, Captain Clark going up that valley and Captain Lewis taking his men up the Blackfoot and across the Continental Divide at Lewis and Clark Pass, so named (although Captain Clark never saw it). The Lewis party went as far north as the Teton River in search of a more northerly pass through the Continental Divide, but had trouble with Blackfoot Indians and were obliged to give up the quest and flee to their boats at the mouth of the Marias River.

Father De Smet visited the Blackfoot Indians in this region in 1840 and again in 1855. He was so successful among these warlike people that in 1856 St. Peter's Mission, the third in Montana Territory and the first among the Blackfoot Indians, was established by Father Hoecken on the Teton River at the foot of Priest Butte, near the present town of Choteau.

Strange to say, Marias Pass, the lowest and easiest of passes on the Continental Divide from Mexico to

Canada, was the last one to be reached by white men. The Blackfeet Indians seem to have had some superstition regarding it and avoided leading explorers to it. On December 12, 1889, John F. Stevens, a civil engineer in the employ of the Great Northern Railway, stood on the summit, guided there by a Flathead Indian.

In the old days there was an extensively used trail from Bighouse (Edmonton, Canada) on the north to Many Houses (Denver, Colo.) on the south. This trail was known as Protection, or Pondera, trail and had several branches according to Richard Sander-ville, a Blackfeet interpreter at Browning, Mont.

This trail passed through the foothills just east of the Lewis and Clark Forest. Remnants of it may still be found where the travois have worn deep furrows. One of the best known of these sections is



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Part of the Chinese wall at the head of Rock Creek

between the Teton River and Muddy Creek. There are several rude graves here which tell a mute story of conflict or disaster.

Choteau, Mont., located on the Teton River, 57 miles northwest of Great Falls, was named for the president of the American Fur Co., Pierre Choteau, jr., who brought the first steamboat to Fort Benton on the Missouri River in 1860. It was originally a trading post and was called "Old Agency" until 1883, when 70 acres were laid out for the town and the name changed to Choteau.

Before 1877 the livestock business was well established in this region, and history records that there were thousands of cattle, sheep, and horses feeding on the abundant native grasses at that time. The fertility of the soil and the abundance of water were

early recognized, and an irrigation ditch which carried 4,000 inches of water from the Teton River was built in the early eighties.

Great Falls, the nearest important railroad center, was located and surveyed in July, 1883, at the mouth of Sun River. The town site included the beautiful Black Eagle Falls on the Missouri River, mentioned in the diary of Lewis and Clark.

TIMBER

In spite of the fact that a large part of the forest has been heavily burned in years past and many of the ridges and slopes swept bare of trees, considerable timber remains. It is estimated that the total stand of trees of merchantable size amounts to over 700 million board feet. The principal species are lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and Engelmann spruce.

Although much of the timber in the back country is inaccessible to market at the present time, the forest has contributed much to local needs, and has played a considerable part in the development of the country. It has supplied small mills with sawlogs from which much of the lumber used in the vicinity has been cut. Rancher and settler have drawn on the timber of the foothills and canyons for house logs, fuel, fence posts, and poles. During the construction of the Great Northern Railroad in the early nineties many ties were cut from the Sun and Teton River valleys.

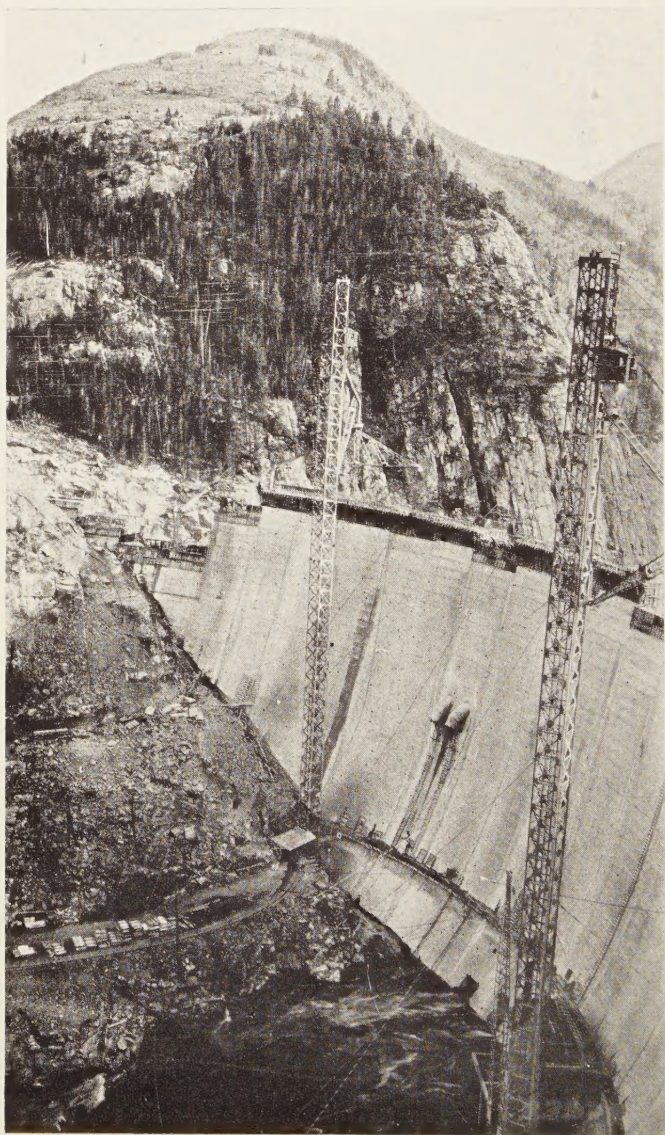
Commercial timber sales are made to individuals or companies who purchase "stumpage," or standing trees, for the general lumber market. After an appraisal of the value of the stumpage by forest officers, the proposed sale is advertised (except in small commercial sales) for a period of at least 30 days and bids are requested. A minimum price per thousand feet is specified in the advertisement, and no bid for less than that amount is considered.

Down timber and mature and dead timber, which can be cut without injury to the forest, are sold upon application without advertisement, in any desired amount to homestead settlers or farmers for domestic use, at the actual cost of making the sale. The resale of timber purchased in this way is prohibited.

Timber that needs to be removed in order to protect the forest from injury, to improve conditions of growth, or to advance the work of construction, maintenance, or repair of roads, bridges, trails, telephone lines, and other improvements, is disposed of by sale, free use, or otherwise, as may be most advantageous to the United States.

WATERSHED PROTECTION VALUES

The Lewis and Clark Forest is of preeminent importance for watershed protection. Perhaps a larger per cent of the water flow originating on this forest is utilized than from any other forest in the western half of the State of Montana. Practically all of the streams rising within the boundaries are used in irrigating agricultural lands to the eastward, and many of the towns draw their municipal supplies from this source.



Gibson dam under construction

F-239702

Five major reservoirs have been built to store water from the mountain streams. The largest of these, the Gibson Reservoir, near the mouth of the Sun River Canyon, completed in 1929 to supply the Sun River irrigation project, has a capacity of

105,000 acre feet, sufficient to irrigate 120,000 acres of land. In this one project alone the Government has invested \$6,890,000 for dams, ditches, and laterals.

In addition to the supply of water furnished by the larger reservoirs, much water coming from the smaller streams is used by individuals and small companies.

A very important relationship exists between the forests on the watersheds of the streams and the irrigated crops. Green timbered slopes are a large factor in maintaining a constant stream flow. The forest tends to retard run-off when the snow is melting in the spring, by increasing the absorptive power of the soil. It helps to prevent erosion of the soil and so decreases the accumulation of silt in reservoirs and ditches. It delays somewhat the melting of the snow which lies in the shade of the trees, thus distributing over a longer period the supply of water from this source. This shade also prevents the rapid evaporation of such rain as may fall in the summer months, allowing it a chance to soak into the ground and augment the supply of ground water which is a very real factor in maintaining the flow of streams and springs.

In spite of the fact that in the past forest fires have played havoc with much of the timber, a large amount of green forest remains on the watersheds. The value of this is inestimable, and it would be a calamity if it were destroyed. The efforts of the protective organization of the Lewis and Clark Forest are directed toward keeping these watersheds green, and the cooperation of all forest users is sought to this end.

GRAZING

The forage upon the ranges of the Lewis and Clark National Forest plays a vital part in extending the productive capacity of local farms and in building community wealth. Conservatively estimated, the capital invested in ranch property by farmers and stockmen using the forest ranges is close to a million dollars. Use of these ranges furnishes at least 50 per cent more local wealth in the region than would otherwise be produced.

Use of the forage on the area now within the boundaries was common to some extent long before the creation of the forest, but utilization of the remoter ranges was difficult because of lack of trails.

During the last 20 years or more the more inaccessible country has been opened up, benefiting greatly home builders adjacent to the national forest and enriching community life generally.

The stock using the forest is owned by local home builders. Stock is usually fed the products of the home ranches during the fall, winter, and spring, and grazed on the forest range during the summer months. The return from the 6,000 cattle and 17,000 sheep grazed upon the Lewis and Clark National Forest during the summer months forms an integral part of one of the basic mainstays of Montana's economic system—the livestock business.



Cattle grazing on the North Fork of Sun River

F-20649

All stock is grazed under paid permit at so much a head. The fees charged are commensurate with those charged on areas of the same type under private ownership. Sheep are required to be herded and kept within boundaries of certain allotments specified in the permit. Cattle graze more largely at will, although held within certain areas by salting, fencing, natural topographic barriers, or herding when necessary.

In the allotment of forage to domestic stock care is taken to provide adequately for range needed by wild life. Although there is an abundance of summer range for both domestic stock and wild animals, there is some difficulty in finding sufficient winter range for the latter inasmuch as so great a part of this national forest lies at a high elevation and is deeply covered by snow for many months each year. For this reason areas on which game can find winter feed are set aside for this purpose, and domestic stock excluded.

WILD LIFE

Despite the extent to which settlement of the region has altered pioneer game conditions, still to-day no national forest in the United States has a greater variety of wild life than has the Lewis and Clark. Within its boundaries is the Great Sun River elk herd, numbering nearly 5,000 head. Black bear are present in considerable numbers and it is estimated that there are 50 grizzlies remaining. Besides the larger game animals there are numbers of the smaller fur bearers, such as beaver, marten, mink, otter, fox, etc.

It is estimated that 700 deer make their home on the forest. There are also in the neighborhood of 50 moose. The rocky peaks are the ideal habitat of the mountain goat, and there are 500 or more on the forest. Moose and goats are protected and can not be hunted under any circumstances.

Mountain sheep have almost disappeared from the mountains of the West. Out of less than 2,000 which are believed to be living in Montana at the present time, 500 are on the Lewis and Clark Forest. The band was formerly larger, but during the winter of 1924 and 1925 an epidemic of pneumonia caused the loss of about 200 sheep. Many of the sheep winter in the Sun River Canyon, where they become quite tame and may be easily observed. They are protected from hunting.

THE SUN RIVER ELK HERD

The forest has played a large part in the preservation and building up of the Sun River elk herd, which is now one of the largest in the country. From an estimated number of 1,000 in 1913, the herd has grown to nearly 5,000 head in 1930.

In 1912 the Montana State Legislature created the Sun River Game Preserve, a tract of nearly 200,000 acres entirely within the Lewis and Clark Forest. The Forest Service immediately canceled all permits for the grazing of domestic stock within this area, and has from time to time since reduced the number of permits on adjacent areas in order to provide additional winter feed for the elk. In fact, since 1913 to the present time the number of domestic stock grazed on the forest has been nearly cut in two for this purpose. With this protection afforded, the elk have made an average annual increase of about 14 per cent.



F-33023A

Elk trail on the Lewis and Clark National Forest

The settlement of the region has cut deeply into the natural drifts and winter feed habits of the elk, and the problem of providing winter forage for this large herd is a difficult one. During severe weather when much of the feed is buried beneath crusted snow the situation becomes acute. As the herd has increased it has drifted more and more in severe winters to lower altitudes for forage. In 1925 some few animals ranged as far as the town of Choteau; in 1930 from 2,000 to 3,000 elk were outside the mountains on stock ranges where they did considerable damage to stockmen's ranges and fences.

The available range in public ownership will not properly support more than 4,000 head, and the herd should be held close to this number to prevent starvation of many of the animals. To prevent undue increase of the herd, the hunting season adjacent to the Sun River Game Preserve has been extended from 30 to 48 days by State law, or from October 15 to December 1, both dates inclusive. It is believed that an average annual kill of 500 head could be maintained and still hold the herd to its present size.

Game on the Lewis and Clark National Forest is under the jurisdiction of the State Fish and Game Commission. The Forest Service, however, cooperates with State officials in the protection and management of all valuable wild life species.

RECREATION

Recreational use in any form not detrimental to the forest is permitted. The forest is open to all who wish to visit it, except during periods of unusual fire danger, when certain portions may be closed to visitors. Camp-fire permits may be required during

the summer months at the discretion of the forest supervisor, and smoking may be prohibited during such periods except at places of residence or improved camp grounds.

There are many points of interest on the Lewis and Clark Forest, but most of them can be reached only by trail, as there are no roads which penetrate more than a very short distance into the forest. By using the trail system, however, it is possible to reach the heart of the country by one or two days' travel. Numerous dude ranches and individuals in the region supply pack outfits and guide service for such trips. Perhaps nowhere in the Northwest is there a better chance to undertake a trip into a wilderness away from beaten roads. Good fishing may be had in most of the streams beyond the end of the roads and also in some of the larger streams which are accessible to automobiles. The main ways of entering the forest are the Sun River Canyon, reached via Choteau and Augusta, and Willow Creek and Dearborn River, reached via Augusta. These entrances are within a short distance by auto from Great Falls, the largest city in this section of the country.

Bear Lake is a small body of water in the high country near Prairie Reef, which may be reached by a day's trip. The outlet is underground and the lake affords some good land-locked salmon fishing. The route leads over a high, rock cliff trail around the newly constructed Gibson Dam and reservoir, past Painted Indian Point, across the North Fork of Sun River at the Medicine Springs and into the Sun River Game Preserve, where many large game animals, such as elk, deer, moose, mountain sheep, mountain goats, and bears make their summer homes.

If there is time for a trip of a week or more, one may continue up the South Fork of the North Fork of Sun River to the mouth of the West Fork, near which is found one of the famous licks where game animals come to get alkali as a substitute for salt. Following up this stream to the mouth of Ahorn Creek, the "Dark Forest" is entered, where little light penetrates even in midsummer. Continuing up Ahorn Creek and crossing the Continental Divide, a mountain trail leads down to Salmon Lake on the Flathead Forest, where there is good mountain trout fishing.

Many other trips may be taken to and across the Continental Divide for sight-seeing, fishing, or hunting, in season.

The Chinese Wall, a high rock escarpment which extends several miles along the east side of the Continental Divide, may be reached by way of any of several creeks entering the North Fork of Sun River from the west.



In Sun River Canyon

F-184888

Paul Bunyan's Cigarette, a cylindrical rock formation some 5 feet in diameter and 30 feet in height, is a freak of nature at the head of Cigarette Creek near Scapegoat Mountain. To reach this point will require a trip of from two to three days by way of Dearborn River, Elk, or Straight Creek.

Mount Wright, with an elevation of 8,865 feet, affords a superb view of peaks on the Lewis and Clark and Flathead Forests, and Glacier Park, extending as far as the Canadian line and beyond. This is one of many such views which may be had from several mountains on the forest. Mount Wright may be reached by trail up the North Fork of the Teton River, a trip requiring at least three days from Choteau. One may continue across the Continental Divide at the head of the West Fork of the Teton into the Big River country on the Flathead.

The Roosevelt Highway skirts the northern border of the forest. This is the most northern transcontinental route in the United States. At the summit of Marias Pass a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt is to be erected.

Attractive camp sites with good hunting and fishing are numerous. Localities frequently visited are

the Sun River Canyon, which is accessible by auto to Gibson Dam and which is equipped with several improved camp grounds; and the Medicine Springs, Teton, and Dearborn Canyons.

FOREST FIRES

The summers on the Lewis and Clark National Forest are especially dry, and violent wind storms are of common occurrence. These conditions, together with the ground cover of dry weeds, grass, dead twigs, and needles, cause a very rapid spread of any fires that start.



Fire on Teton River

F-155881

Forest fires are from two causes—man and lightning. Lightning fires can not be prevented. The best that can be done is to locate and suppress them quickly when they occur. Man-caused fires, which are the result of carelessness or ignorance, can be prevented. The responsibility for fires of this sort rests squarely on the individual. If you camp and **fail to put out your camp fire**, if you smoke and

thoughtlessly drop a burning match or cigarette, if you clear land and start more fire than you can handle, YOU are responsible for the damage that may result. Many of our worst fires have started from preventable causes. One fire on this forest, which started from an abandoned camp fire, traveled three miles in less than three hours and burned over one thousand acres of timber in that time. Such carelessness with fire has marred the beauty of many a playground and camp site, destroyed the home of game birds and animals, and ruined the appearance of the landscape for years to come. Common sense and a little forethought would prevent disasters of this kind.

CAMP-FIRE PERMITS

On forests where the fire hazard is great during the summer months, permits to build camp fires may be required. These are issued by forest officers or



South Sister Peak

F-189203

other persons deputized by the Forest Service, at points convenient to the roads leading into the forests. There is no red tape connected with obtaining a permit; the purpose is to enable forest officers to keep a check on campers using the forest and to help them apprehend persons who may start forest fires.

Ascertain before going into the woods if a permit is necessary.

During periods of extreme danger, areas of special hazard may be closed to all entry for recreational purposes. Special notice of such closure is posted at the time. The following rules will help you to protect the forest. Please read them carefully and then do accordingly.

SIX RULES FOR PREVENTION OF FIRE IN THE FORESTS

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
 2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
 3. **Making camp.**—Before building a fire, scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build a fire against trees or logs or near brush.
 4. **Breaking camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
 5. **Brush burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
 6. **How to put out a camp fire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If water can not be had, stir in earth instead and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.
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SIX SUGGESTIONS FOR SPORTSMEN

1. **Be a real sportsman.**—There is more honor in giving the game a square deal than in getting the limit. Stay within the game laws.
2. **Make sure it's a buck.**—If you can't see his horns, she hasn't any. Most counties have the buck law.
3. **Help to enforce the game law.**—Game and fish are public property, and only a game hog will take more than his fair and legal share. Violations of law should be reported to the nearest deputy warden, forest ranger, or game protective association.
4. **Respect the ranchman's property.**—If you never go back, some brother sportsman will. The privilege of hunting and fishing on his premises is a real privilege and should be treated as such. Close his gates; be careful where you shoot; don't tear down his fences, trample his crops, or do any other wrong act, and your sport will increase and your conscience will feel easier.
5. **Be careful with your camp fire and matches.**—One tree will make a million matches; one match can burn a million trees and destroy many game animals and fish.
6. **Leave a clean camp and a clean record.**—Unburied garbage, crippled game, and broken laws are poor monuments for a sportsman to leave behind him.

THE NATIONAL FORESTS

The national forests, 149 in number, contain about 160,000,000 acres of forest land, distributed in 31 States, Porto Rico, and Alaska. They are held, protected, and developed by the Government for the benefit of the whole people. To insure a perpetual supply of timber, to preserve the forest cover on watersheds, and to provide for the highest use of all their resources are the main objectives in the administration of the national forests.

Most of the national forests were created by Presidential proclamation from the forested public lands of the West under an act of Congress passed in 1891. There are in the East, however, a number of forests comprising lands acquired by purchase chiefly for the purpose of regulating stream flow.

The national forests are administered by the Forest Service, a bureau of the Department of Agriculture. The chief executive of the Forest Service is the Forester, who has headquarters at Washington, D. C. In order to facilitate administration and management, the forests have been grouped into field regions with headquarters centrally located in each region. Each of these regions, now nine in number, is in charge of a regional forester. Region No. 1, which comprises Montana, northern Idaho, a very small part of western South Dakota, and a narrow strip of eastern Washington, includes 24 forests and has headquarters at Missoula, Mont.

Individual forests are in charge of forest supervisors, who have headquarters in towns on or near their forests. Each forest is divided into smaller administrative units, known as ranger districts, in charge of forest rangers, who are permanent officers. These men are specially trained for the work and are appointed after a competitive civil-service examination. They are the caretakers of the forest and are empowered to make arrests for violations of the laws and regulations governing the national forests. Many of them are also deputy State game wardens, charged with enforcing the State game laws.

During the summer season, additional men are employed to help in preventing, discovering, and putting out fires, and in constructing roads, trails, telephone lines, and other necessary improvements.

Be sure the last spark is out—dead out!

Play safe with fire! Leave a clean camp!



Burned forests produce no revenue; be careful!



LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST
MONTANA
MONTANA PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
1930

- 0 1 2 3 4 5
MILES
- LEGEND
- National Forest Boundary
 - Adjacent National Forest Boundary
 - State Game Preserve
 - Trails
 - Superintendent's Headquarters
 - District Ranger Station
 - Ranger-in-Chief Station
 - Lookout Point
 - Permanent Lookout Station
 - Triangulation Station
 - Administrative Site
 - House, cabin, or other building
 - Game preserve boundary